

DECLASSIFIED

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 21, 1954

We shot both morning and afternoon, and wound up with a bag for the two days of 550 pieces of game, most of them pheasants. One red fox was killed. There were eight or nine guns shooting, including three Prefects (one of them, Vidal, of Seine-et-Marne, is a ~~very~~ fine shot). There were also de Floriau. (a famous criminal lawyer), Paul Reynaud, the Director of the French Customs Service Pierre Wertheimer (who owns race horses and the Bourjois Perfume Company), and Marcel's brother André. I love shooting in France for, aside from the fact that, everywhere I visit, people are so unfailingly hospitable, there is a never-ceasing flow of conversation, most of it witty and impersonal. I do not believe the talents of the French in the field of social agreeability are equalled anywhere else in the world.

Reynaud considers the death of EDC was a tragic error for France and will result in Germany taking the leadership of Europe instead of it being assumed by his own country. He blames much of what has ~~happened~~ **happened** on the British. He thinks the Parliament should and will ratify the London-Paris accords but he will not vote for them himself.

Boussac, one of the arch enemies of EDC, was rather delicate in the way he discussed it with me. I do not think he takes a long-range view of any problems that affect his personal interests, but he is a man of unusual force, a brilliant talker, and one of the best hosts in the world. He thinks the great problems now confronting Mendès are (1) to improve the situation in Indo-China, (2) to bring about an enduring and satisfactory relationship between the French and the natives in North Africa, and (3) to prepare for the next elections. On the last point, he was vague as to what he had in mind.

I left Mi Voisin at 6:30 and went to Fontainebleau, where I spent the night at Margaret Biddle's. Mr. Binay was there. He believes in the London-Paris

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agreements are ratified Mendès will run into great trouble in domestic politics. He neither likes nor trusts Mendès, and thinks he made a fatal error in attacking the accomplishments, or the lack of them, of his predecessors. He spoke particularly of the strong resentment entertained on this score by Dr. Queille. He also said Mendès is reaching down into ~~low~~ low ranks in the Civil Service and making many replacements by removing old employees and substituting for them friends and relatives of his personal friends. He claims the sentiment in the Foreign Office, once ~~friendly~~ friendly to the Prime Minister, has materially changed in the last few weeks. He said, for example, the appointment of Wormser in place of Charpentier as head of the Economic Division has been much criticized. Wormser is a nephew of Georges Boris. Pinay also thinks the French people will not continue to respond favorably to Mendès' weekly broadcasts unless he can place his programs into effect and make them work.

Such criticism must be taken with many grains of salt, for, obviously, the politicians out of power wish to undermine those who are in, an attitude not confined to France.

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